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Commission on Sustainable Development
Eighth session
24 April-5 May 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Sectoral theme: integrated planning and management of land resources.
4. Cross-sectoral theme: financial resources/trade and investment/economic growth.
5. Economic sector/major group: agriculture.
6. Report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.
7. High-level meeting.
8. Other matters.
9. Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Commission.
10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman and such other officers as may be required. In previous sessions, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom also served as Rapporteur.

In its resolution 1997/63, the Council decided on the following future arrangements for the election of the Bureau of the Commission in order to implement the

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provisions of paragraph 136 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21:

> "(a) The Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, will hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new chairman and other members of the bureau in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council;
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> "...
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> "(c) The terms of office of the members of the Commission will begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the Commission's regular session held after 1 January, following their election by the Council (at its resumed organizational session of the previous year) and will end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January following the election of the States that are to succeed them as members of the Commission, unless they are re-elected".

On 30 April 1999, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Juan Mayr Maldonado (Colombia) as Chairman, and Patrick McDonnell (Ireland), Zvetolyub Basmajiev (Bulgaria) and Choy Seok Young (Republic of Korea) as Vice-Chairmen. It postponed to a later session the election of one Vice-Chairman.

At the beginning of the eighth session, the Commission may wish to elect the remaining Vice-Chairman from an African State, as well as a Rapporteur.

The membership of the Commission at its eighth and ninth sessions is contained in annex II.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In its decision 1999/222 of 26 July 1999, the Council took note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session and endorsed the provisional agenda for the eighth session.

3. Sectoral theme: integrated planning and management of land resources

In accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 1998-2002, and as reiterated by the Commission in its decision 7/8, an inter-sessional ad hoc working group convened from 28 February to 3 March 2000 considered the theme "Integrated planning and management of land resources" prior to the Commission's consideration of the theme at its eighth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on integrated planning and management of land resources (E/CN.17/2000/6)

Addendum: combating deforestation (E/CN.17/2000/6/Add.1)

Addendum: combating desertification and drought (E/CN.17/2000/6/Add.2)

Addendum: sustainable mountain development (E/CN.17/2000/6/Add.3)

Addendum: conservation of biological diversity (E/CN.17/2000/6/Add.4)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Integrated Land Management and Agriculture (E/CN.17/2000/__)

4. Cross-sectoral theme: financial resources/trade and investment/economic growth

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998-2002, the cross-sectoral theme for the eighth session is "Financial resources/trade and investment/economic growth".

Also, in accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 1998-2002 and as reiterated by the Commission in its decision 7/8, an inter-sessional ad hoc working group convened from 22 to 25 February 2000 considered the theme "Financial resources/trade and investment/economic growth" prior to the Commission's consideration of the theme at its eighth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on financial resources and mechanisms (E/CN.17/2000/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on economic growth, trade and investment (E/CN.17/2000/4)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Financial Resources, Trade and Investment and Economic Growth (E/CN.17/2000/__)

5. Economic sector/major group: agriculture

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work for the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1998-2002, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, at its eighth session, in 2000, would consider the issue of agriculture (including forestry).

In accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 2000-2002 and as reiterated by the Commission in its decision 7/8, an inter-sessional ad hoc working group convened from 28 February to 3 March 2000 considered the theme "Agriculture" in conjunction with the theme "Integrated planning and management of land resources", prior to the Commission's consideration of the theme at its eighth session.

In connection with the above, the Bureau of the eighth session of the Commission, after consultations with delegations and major groups, decided to hold at that session a multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable agriculture which will consider the following four topics:

(a) Choices in agricultural production techniques, consumption patterns and safety regulations: potential threats to sustainable agriculture;

(b) Best practices in land resource management to achieve sustainable food cycles;

(c) Knowledge for a sustainable food system: identifying and providing for education, training, knowledge-sharing and information needs;

(d) Globalization, trade liberalization and investment patterns: economic incentives and framework conditions to promote sustainable agriculture.

The Bureau also agreed on the need to involve representatives of the scientific community in the dialogue, through the participation of scientists in the major groups' delegations and inviting representatives of scientific organizations to participate in the segment in resource capacity. Also attending the dialogue will be representatives of United Nations organizations, as well as other international institutions. The Bureau further reiterated the importance of ensuring a geographical balance in major groups' delegations to the dialogue, in particular the need for effective participation of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The dialogue will be held on 24 and 25 April 2000 (four meetings).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Sustainable agriculture and rural development: trends in national implementation" (E/CN.17/2000/5)

Addendum: some highlights on national trends in sustainable forest management (E/CN.17/2000/5/Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on sustainable agriculture and rural development (E/CN.17/2000/7)

Addendum: urbanization and sustainable agriculture development (E/CN.17/2000/7/Add.1)

Addendum: biotechnology for sustainable agriculture (E/CN.17/2000/7/Add.2)

Addendum: linkages between agriculture, land and water (E/CN.17/2000/7/Add.3)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Integrated Land Management and Agriculture (E/CN.17/2000/__)

6. Report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

The report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests on its fourth session (31 January to 11 February 2000) will be before the Commission at its eighth session for its consideration.

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests on its fourth session (E/CN.17/2000/__)

7. High-level meeting

In its resolution 47/191, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission adopt at its first session a multi-year thematic programme of work, including a high-level meeting, with ministerial participation, to have an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda 21, to consider emerging policy issues and to provide necessary political impetus to the implementation of the decisions of the United

Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the commitments contained therein.

At its first session, the Commission decided that, as a rule, its high-level meetings should last for a period of up to three days, and that they should be integral parts of the session of the Commission and of its decision-making process. The organization of work of the high-level meetings should provide, *inter alia*, for an open exchange of views among the participants and for holding informal meetings, as the need arose, to resolve outstanding issues relating to its work that required high-level consideration. The result of the meeting might be a concise document, should the participants deem that appropriate.

At its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission, based on the experience gained during the period 1993-1997 and under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council, make concerted efforts to attract the greater involvement in its work of ministers and high-level national policy makers responsible for specific economic and social sectors, who, in particular, were encouraged to participate in the annual high-level segment of the Commission, together with the ministers and policy makers responsible for environment and development; the high-level segments of the Commission should become more interactive, and should focus on the priority issues being considered at a particular session; and the Bureau of the Commission should conduct timely and open-ended consultations with a view to improving the organization of the work of the high-level segment (see General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 133 (a)).

Accordingly, the Bureau agreed that each of the five meetings allocated to the segment would be divided into two parts of one and a half hours each: the first for a general debate with a list of speakers and the second for interactive thematic dialogues.

The Bureau further recommended that the focus during the interactive dialogue sessions would be on the following main themes: (a) land and agriculture; (b) preparations for the 2002 review of progress since UNCED; (c) the outcome of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests; (d) finance and investment; and (e) trade.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on main and emerging issues (including preliminary suggestions regarding the form, scope and nature of the preparatory process for the 10-year review of progress achieved since UNCED) (E/CN.17/2000/__)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Integrated Land Management and Agriculture (E/CN.17/2000/__)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Finance, Trade and Investment and Economic Growth (E/CN.17/2000/__)

8. Other matters

Documentation

Progress report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the work programme on education and sustainable development (E/CN.17/2000/8)

Progress report by the Secretary-General on the work in the area of voluntary initiatives and agreements (E/CN.17/2000/__)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the work in the area of tourism and sustainable development (E/CN.17/2000/__)

Report of the Secretary-General on national reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/2000/__)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in provision of safe water supply and sanitation for all in the 1990s (mandated by the General Assembly) (E/CN.17/2000/__)

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the work of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources (mandated by the Commission at its sixth session) (E/CN.17/2000/__)

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In accordance with the multi-year programme of work, the session will also include the Day of Indigenous People.

9. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's subsequent session, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current session.

10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

The proposed organization of work for the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been drawn up on the basis of informal consultations conducted by the Bureau.

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Week of 24-28 April 2000		
Monday, 24 April		
10 a.m.-12 p.m.		Plenary
		Opening of the session
	Item 1	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
		Introductory statements
		Presentations of the outcomes of the ad hoc inter-sessional working groups and other inter-sessional activities
3-6 p.m.	Item 5	Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment (Topic: Choices in agricultural production techniques, consumption patterns and safety regulations: potential threats to sustainable agriculture)
6.30-9.30 p.m.	Item 5	Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment (Topic: Best practices in land resource management to achieve sustainable food cycles)
Tuesday, 25 April		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 5	Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment (Topic: Knowledge for a sustainable food system: identifying and providing for education, training, knowledge-sharing and information needs
3-6 p.m.	Item 5	Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment (Topic: Globalization, trade liberalization and investment patterns: economic incentives and framework conditions to promote sustainable agriculture)
6.15-8 p.m.		Special event on food security organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Wednesday, 26 April		
8.30-9.45 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting
10-1 p.m.	Item 7	High-level segment, with a thematic focus on land and agriculture
3-6 p.m.	Item 7	High-level segment, with a thematic focus on preparations for the 2002 review of progress since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
6-7 p.m.	Item 7	High-level segment, with a thematic focus on the outcome of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
7-9 p.m.		Panel on Indigenous People
Thursday, 27 April		
8.30-9.45 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting
10-1 p.m.	Item 7	High-level segment, with a thematic focus on finance and investment
3-6 p.m.	Item 7	High-level segment, with a thematic focus on trade
		Conclusion of the high-level segment
Friday, 28 April		
10-1 p.m.		No official meetings
3-6 p.m.		No official meetings
Week of 1-5 May		
Monday, 1 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Tuesday, 2 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Wednesday, 3 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Thursday 4 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Friday, 5 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 8	Other matters, including the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development
	Item 9	Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Commission

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
3-6 p.m.	Item 10	**Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighth session** **Closure of the eighth session** **First meeting of the ninth session (for the sole purpose of electing the Bureau for the ninth session).**

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session

Algeria
Angola
Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Egypt
France
Germany
Guyana
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Lebanon
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mozambique
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela